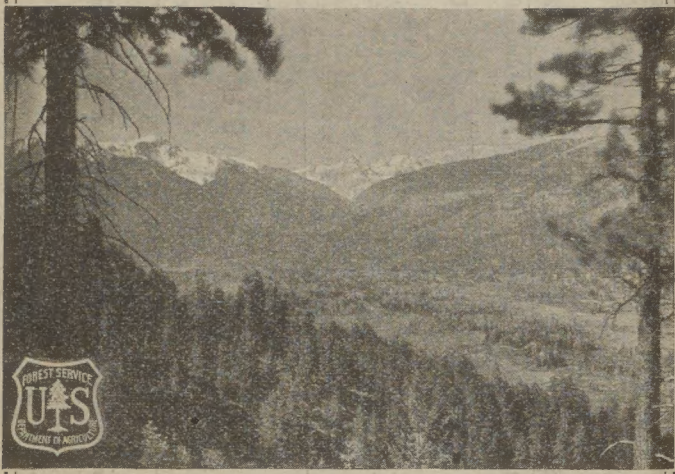


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RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST

COLORADO



THE NATIONAL FORESTS

YOURS TO
USE
AND ENJOY

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HOW THE NATIONAL FORESTS ARE USED

The Forest Service wishes to help the people make the highest use of the National Forests.

The growing of timber comes first. Its cutting is so regulated that a constant supply of timber may be available. The protection of watersheds results in the regulation of stream flow and in providing water for irrigation.

On the National Forest ranges pasturage is provided for large numbers of live stock, and this grazing use is so regulated that the ranges are both highly utilized and protected from deterioration.

Among its other activities, the Forest Service builds roads and trails which make the Forest areas accessible for administration and open to visitors. It also directs people to recreation places among the craggy mountains, by roaring streams, in the majestic woods, where enjoyment may be found and health may be restored. This folder describes some of the many delightful places hidden away in the Rio Grande National Forest of Colorado.

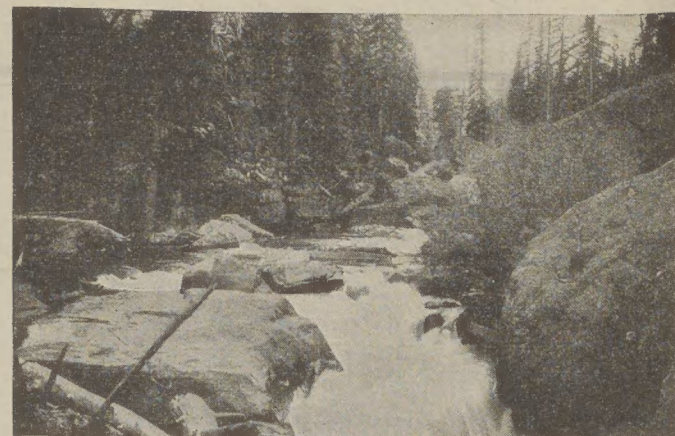
Thirty-six million feet of timber is cut each year on the Forests of Colorado, under regulations designed to provide for the future growth of timber.

On the Colorado Forests 391,000 cattle and horses and 1,011,000 sheep and goats are grazed under rules that experience has shown will provide for future grazing.

Last year 1,200,000 people traveled into Colorado's National Forests to take advantage of the exceptional opportunities for recreation. These figures indicate the use that is made of the National Forests. Twenty-five per cent of the gross receipts from the Forests are returned to the States in which the Forests are located, to be used for building roads and maintaining schools.

Each Forest is in charge of a Supervisor, and is divided into Ranger Districts, within each of which a Ranger is stationed.

Any Forest officer will give you information and advice and help you in all possible ways.



F-26639

RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST

Long ago the Indians came to this region on their annual hunting expeditions—the first to appreciate the natural advantages of the area for recreation and sports. Here they played their games and hunted. They have left their records on the "Painted Rocks."

Fremont and his men forced a way through, and the ruins of his fortifications can be seen at Wagon Wheel Gap.

Historically, the country is rich. Early travelers into the San Juan have left a wealth of tales that bristle with adventure.

Over a million acres are here, and the granite back of the Continental Divide, seamed with canyons and jagged with numberless peaks, twists and bends across the country for 125 miles.

Its waters are well stocked with trout; its timber harbors deer and elk; and its snow-capped peaks are hiding places for the wary mountain sheep.

You may wander through mountain meadows gay with wild flowers in season, rest beside tumbling streams, climb rugged heights and view the outspread country. You may fish, confident of a full creel, or you may rest and enjoy the vitalizing air and sunshine. Any or all of these things you may do on the Rio Grande National Forest.

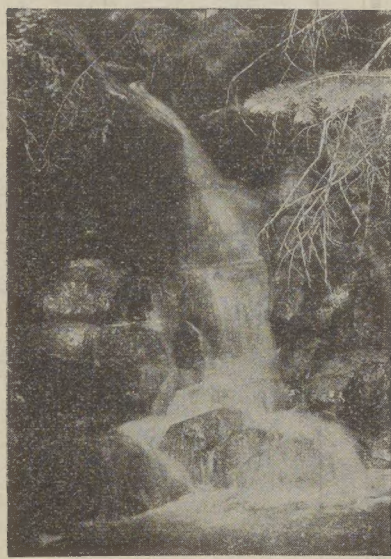
WHERE IS IT?

Just west of the famed San Luis Valley—accessible by the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railway and by auto highways.

At railroad points (Alamosa, La Jara, Antonito, Monte Vista, Del Norte, and Creede), any form of transportation desired may be obtained; also any needed equipment or supplies. Hotel facilities are adequate, and several ranches and resorts are well located and equipped for use as base camps.

CAMPING

Perhaps you long to live under a canvas tent. If so, you have only to choose your camp grounds—an open stretch by quiet waters; the grassy bank of a stream that sparkles and dances over its boulder bed; under pine trees, the earth needle-strewn and the air rich with the smell of resin; below a waterfall, the rocks spray-wet, and the water churned into white clouds of mist; beside a lake, pine-fringed and clear as glass. All these you will find, and they are free. All you need to do is to observe, as good woodsmen will, the fire and health rules. They are printed in this folder.



F-161908



F-166268

ROD AND GUN

You will find 250 miles of streams and numbers of beautiful lakes on which you may try your choicest flies and be sure of a reward. Steelhead, rainbow, native, and eastern brook trout are abundant, as a result of the vigorous and widespread campaign of stocking by the State and the United States Forest Service.

Deer, bear, lion, and bobcats may be hunted in season. Elk and mountain sheep are here, but they are protected. However, you may hunt them with a camera and have more sport than with a gun. Blue and willow grouse, ptarmigan, and duck are abundant.

If you are a disciple of Izaak Walton or of Nimrod, be sure to provide yourself with a copy of the Colorado Game Laws.

MOUNTAIN CLIMBING

Opportunities to test your mettle are abundant, and panoramas of wondrous beauty are visible from the high places.

Rio Grande Pyramid (13,830 feet) guards the headwaters of the Rio Grande del Norte (Great River of the North). Boot Mountain (12,415 feet) and Mesa Peak (12,958 feet) reign in serene majesty over the La Garita Mountains. From Bennett Peak (13,189 feet) and Del Norte Peak (12,378 feet) you can view the immense sweep of the San Luis Valley and the Sangre de Cristo Range on its east flank. From Conejos Peak (13,180 feet) you may get a vista of northern New Mexico and the wonderful San Juan country to the west.



F-28465-A

WHEELER NATIONAL MONUMENT

Named in honor of Capt. George Wheeler, U. S. Engineers, in charge of geological explorations in this region. This grotesquely eroded geological feature, within the Rio Grande Forest, has been set aside by Presidential Proclamation as a National Monument.

Agas ago lava pourings piled up at this spot, and the elements have worn them into figures of exceptional beauty. It is well worth a trip, and is reached by 12 miles of Forest Service trail.

Saddle horses may be had at Creede, and the trail leads across the face of Mammoth Mountain (11,042 feet), giving a superb view of the upper Rio Grande country and of Creede with its adjacent mining activities.



F-83568

LUMBERING

The National Forests grow timber. This timber is cut under Government supervision.

The ripe trees to be cut are selected by a Forest officer. When the weather is favorable the brush is piled and burned to remove the fire menace. A certain percentage of trees is kept to provide watershed protection and to furnish seed for a new crop of timber.

No one can obtain a monopoly of this timber. Bids are solicited and contracts awarded; anyone may bid.

Thus is forestry practiced, and a continual timber supply insured to meet the ever-growing demand.

SOME SUGGESTED AUTO TRIPS

Rio Grande del Norte

Leave the "Spanish Trail" at South Fork and drive 75 miles into the upper reaches of the Rio Grande del Norte. You pass the "Palisades" towering in stairlike formation for 2,000 feet above you. Booming through Wagon Wheel Gap, with sustained tremendous roar, the river completely drowns the noise of your motor. Bristol Head (12,700 feet) can now be seen in silhouette, a most conspicuous landmark.

The road leads you through Creede, the old mining town where fortunes were won and lost and night and day were one. About you here is a beautiful valley flanked on both sides by peaks that rise far above the timber line.

This road terminates at the Farmers' Union Reservoir, a huge storage project supplying water for the production of crops on thousands of acres in the San Luis Valley.

Excellent fishing is to be had along the entire length of this trip, and camp grounds will be found at convenient points.

At Wagon Wheel Gap, the Forest Service and the Weather Bureau, in cooperation, maintain an experiment station for the study of the effect of forest cover on stream flow and for the investigation of related matters. A visit here will be instructive.

South Fork

Follow the "Spanish Trail" and top the Continental Divide, going through Wolf Creek Pass, which leads down into the San Juan country. A few miles from the town of South Fork, the South Fork of the Rio Grande River comes out of Box Canyon. At its entrance, Columbine Falls leap out in a boiling flood and drop down the face of the canyon wall. Near it, nestling here and there among the cliffs, or tucked under towering spruce trees, are the cabins of those who have chosen these beauty spots in answer to the call of the wild.

Treasure Mountain, which may be viewed from the drive, is famed in history as the hiding place of the bullion of the French Expedition. The bullion, however, has never been found.



F-17812-A

Rio Conejos

Through the southeast end of the Forest, the Rio Conejos, a stream stocked with rainbow trout, rolls to join the Rio Grande. The auto road winds into the Forest for 20 miles. Rimrock, supporting mesas hundreds of feet above you, presents pictures of ever-changing beauty for your pleasure. Alder, aspen, pine, and spruce blend in a color harmony that satisfies.

GRAZING

The use of the extensive National Forest ranges is regulated. The old competition between the big man and the little man is no more.

Overgrazed ranges are a thing of the past. A good yearly supply of forage is available, and is allotted under the grazing regulations to big and little owners on an equitable basis.

The Rio Grande Forest grazes nearly 550,000 head of stock each year. It is one of the largest grazing units under the administration of the Forest Service.



F-23383-A

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL

One hundred and twenty-five miles of trail along the very crest of the Divide, now on the Atlantic, now on the Pacific slope, weaving in and out among peaks and over passes, offers you a thrilling and inspiring trip. Southern Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico may be seen from this trail with a perfect welter of mountains, valleys, streams, and timber. The coloring and cloud effects are sublime. Saddle horses and a complete pack outfit are necessary for a trip of this kind.



F-24003-A



F-42989-A

A careless smoker or camper can make a scene like this look like the one below.



F-35709-A

Be sure your **CAMP FIRE**—your **MATCH**—your **CIGARETTE** is **OUT**.

FIRE PROTECTION

As you travel through the forest you will see blackened trunks and charred stumps—mute but forceful evidences of a once-glorious forest destroyed by fire. The economic and esthetic loss has been appalling.

As you see, too, the young natural growth coming on under the protection of the Forest Service, you will realize the great need for such protection and for the growing of a supply of timber to meet the demands of future generations. To do this successfully, the Forest Service asks your cooperation in exercising the greatest care with fire in the woods.

FIRES DESTROY

What these fires destroy means loss to you personally. Seventy-five per cent of forest fires in the Rocky Mountain District are due to human agency. Help us stop this waste. Be careful with cigarettes, matches, and camp fires. Make it your business to put out any fire you discover, or, if this is impossible, to report it at once.

SANITATION

You appreciate coming to a clean camping ground; those who follow you will appreciate it, too. Read the fire and health rules printed in this folder.

INFORMATION

The headquarters of the Rio Grande National Forest are located in Monte Vista, Colorado, and additional information or assistance in planning trips may be obtained by writing the Forest Supervisor. In addition, Forest Rangers, who are located at various points throughout the Forest, may be of material aid in making your trip worth while.

FIRE

SIX RULES FOR FIRE PREVENTION ON THE NATIONAL FORESTS

1. **MATCHES.**—Snap your match in two. Be sure it is out before you throw it away.
2. **TOBACCO.**—Throw pipe ashes and cigar or cigarette butts in the dust of the road and stamp out the fire before leaving them. Don't throw them into leaves, brush, or needles.
3. **MAKING CAMP.**—Build a small camp fire in the open, not against a tree or log or near brush. Scrape away needles and brush from around the fire.
4. **BREAKING CAMP.**—Never leave camp without quenching your fire with water and then covering it with earth. Be sure it is OUT.
5. **BONFIRES.**—Never build bonfires in windy weather or where there is the slightest danger of their escaping from control. Don't make them larger than you need.
6. **FIGHTING FIRES.**—If you find a fire, try to put it out. If you can't, get to a telephone, or telegraph, and notify the nearest U. S. Forest Ranger or State Fire Warden at once. Keep in touch with the Rangers of the Forest you are visiting.

HEALTH

SIX RULES FOR HEALTH PROTECTION BY THE COLORADO STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

1. **PURIFICATION.**—Mountain streams will not purify themselves in a few hundred feet. Boil or chlorinate all suspected water.
2. **GARBAGE.**—Burn or bury all garbage, papers, tin cans, and old clothes.
3. **EXCRETIONS.**—Bury a foot deep all human excrement, at least two hundred feet from streams, lakes, or springs.
4. **WASHINGS.**—Do not wash soiled clothing, utensils, or bodies in streams, lakes, or springs. Use a container and throw dirty water on ground away from water supply.
5. **TOILETS.**—Use public toilets, where available. They are properly located. Toilets should be at least two hundred feet from streams and not in gulches.
6. **OBEYING LAWS.**—Observe rules and endeavor to have others do the same. National and State laws inflict heavy penalties for health-law violators. Report all violations or insanitary conditions (including dead animals) to nearest health officer or U. S. Forest Officer.

